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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 04 SEOUL 00563

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, PREL, KS, KN
SUBJECT: ROKG ANNOUNCEMENT ON KAL 858, TV APPEARANCE OF
"MAYUMI"

1. ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER PARK SOO GIL BRIEFED THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR LILLEY, A.M.
JANUARY 15 ON THE RESULTS OF THE ROKG INVESTIGATION OF THE
KAL 858 INCIDENT. (THE SUBSTANCE OF PARK'S REMARKS IS
CONTAINED IN A MOFA HANDOUT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH BEGINS
AT PARA 3 BELOW.) THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ROKG BRIEFINGS OF
THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MEDIA, AND A LIVE TV APPEARANCE
BY "MAYUMI HACHIYA" AKA KIM HYUN HEE. AFTER AN
INTRODUCTION BY ROKG OFFICIALS OUTLINING THE DETAILS ON
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NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT, MS. KIM ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM
REPORTERS. OBVIOUSLY ILL-AT-EASE (SHE WAS INITIALLY
BARELY AUDIBLE AND DID NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE CAMERA),
SHE RECOUNTED DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING THE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH
DATE/CASE ID: 10 AUG 2009 200807065

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PLANTING OF THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. SHE SAID SHE AGREED TO APPEAR AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DESPITE MISGIVINGS, BECAUSE DURING HER DETENTION SHE WATCHED ROK TV AND REALIZED THAT SHE HAD BEEN MISLED BY DPRK AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA. SHE EXPRESSED SORROW FOR THE INCIDENT AND CONCERN ABOUT HER PARENTS. SHE SPOKE IN FLUENT KOREAN WITH A NORTH KOREAN ACCENT.

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2. A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL DESCRIBE MEDIA AND OTHER REACTIONS HERE. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HERE, HOWEVER, WE GATHER THAT MOST FIND THE ROKG'S CASE CREDIBLE.

3. TEXT OF MOFA "BRIEFING ON THE FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATION ON THE DESTRUCTION OF KOREAN AIR FLIGHT 858".

A. OUTLINE OF THE INCIDENT

-- ON 29 NOVEMBER 1987, KOREAN AIR FLIGHT 858 EN ROUTE FROM ABU DHABI TO SEOUL SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED WITH 115 PASSENGERS AND CREW ABOARD OVER THE ANDAMAN BAY CLOSE TO THAI-BURMESE BORDER. A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION HAS UNCOVERED THAT THE PLANE WAS EXPLODED IN MID-AIR BY A TIME BOMB PLANTED BY NORTH KOREAN AGENTS UNDER THE DIRECT INSTRUCTION OF KIM JONG-IL, HEIR APPARENT OF KIM IL SUNG.

-- HACHIYA SHINICHI WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE AT THE BAHRAIN AIRPORT WHILE MASQUERADING AS A JAPANESE NATIONAL, WAS FOUND TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN HIS INCIDENT AND
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IDENTIFIED AS A NORTH KOREAN AGENT NAMED KIM SUNG-IL. HACHIYA MAYUMI WHO IS UNDER INVESTIGATION HERE IN SEOUL HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS KIM HYUN-HEE, ALSO A NORTH KOREAN AGENT WORKING FOR THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH KOREAN WORKERS' PARTY.

-- KIM SUNG-IL AND KIM HYUN-HEE, TAKING COVER AS FATHER AND DAUGHTER, MADE OVERSEAS TRIP TO VIENNA AND OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES BEGINNING JULY 1984 FOR ABOUT A MONTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERSEAS TRAINING. IN 1987, THEY TOOK A SPECIAL TRAINING OF ONE MONTH, INCLUDING TIME BOMB HANDLING UNDER KIM JONG-IL'S INSTRUCTION OF BLOWING OUT KOREAN AIR PASSENGER PLANES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE 1988 SEOUL OLYMPICS. IT WAS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE INSTRUCTION WAS GIVEN IN KIM JONG-IL'S OWN HANDWRITING.

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- ON 12 NOVEMBER 1987, KIM SUNG-IL AND KIM HYUN-HEE LEFT PYONGYANG AGAIN UNDER COVER AS FATHER AND DAUGHTER. THEY ARRIVED AT THE BAGHDAD AIRPORT AT 8:30 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) ON 28 NOVEMBER BY WAY OF MOSCOW, BUDAPEST, VIENNA AND BELGRADE. IT WAS ALSO KNOWN THAT THEY WERE TAKEN CARE OF BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY STAFF AT EACH OF THE PLACES WHERE THEY MADE A STOP-OVER.
- AFTER SPENDING ABOUT THREE HOURS AT THE AIRPORT TRANSIT LOUNGE, THEY BOARDED KOREAN AIR FLIGHT 858, LEAVING BAGHDAD AT 11:25 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) FOR ABU DAHBI. ON BOARDING THE AIRPLANE, THEY TOOK WITH THEM A RADIO TIME BOMB AND LIQUID EXPLOSIVES, CAMOUFLAGED AS A HAND LUGGAGE AND A LIQUOR BOTTLE RESPECTIVELY. IN THE MEANTIME, AROUND TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE THE DEPARTURE, THEY ALREADY SET THE EXPLOSION TIME OF THE BOMB TO LET

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IT GO OFF EXACTLY NINE HOURS AFTERWARDS.

-- DURING THE FLIGHT, THEY PLANTED THE BOMB INSIDE THE
HEAD RACK AND DEPLANED AT THE ABU DAHBI AIRPORT WHEN IT
MADE A STOPOVER THERE AT 02:44 A.M. (LOCAL TIME) ON THE
MORNING OF 29 NOVEMBER. THE BOMB EXPLODED LATER AS
PRESET WHEN THE PLANE WAS FLYING OVER THE ANDAMAN BAY.

B. IDENTITY OF THE RESPONSIBLE

-- MR. KIM SUNG-IL, WHO WENT BY THE PSEUDONYM OF HACHIYA
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SHINICHI, WAS A 70-YEAR-OLD NORTH KOREAN SECRET AGENT
WHO HAD ENGAGED IN OVERSEAS COVERT OPERATIONS FOR LONG
TIME. MISS KIM HYUN-HEE, 26 YEARS OLD, WHO ALSO USED
THE ALIAS OF HACHIYA MAYUMI, HAD BEEN SELECTED AS A
SECRET AGENT FOR THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF NORTH KOREAN WORKER'S PARTY IN
FEBRUARY 1980, WHILE SHE WAS ATTENDING THE JAPANESE
LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT OF PYONGYANG FOREIGN LANGUAGE
COLLEGE AS SOPHOMORE.

-- MISS KIM HAS UNDERGONE SPECIAL TRAINING, INCLUDING
POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION FOR ONE YEAR
FROM APRIL 1980 AT THE KUM SUNG POLITICO-MILITARY
UNIVERSITY, AN ENCLAVE FOR NORTH KOREAN ESPIONAGE
TRAINING. AFTERWARDS, SHE RECEIVED FOR TWO YEARS FROM
APRIL 1981 TO MARCH 1983 CAMOUFLAGE TRAINING TO DISGUISE
HERSELF AS JAPANESE, AND THEN THE SPECIAL TRAINING
NECESSARY FOR AN ESPIONAGE AGENT CAPABLE OF OPERATING IN
SOUTH KOREA.

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-- MR. KIM SUNG-IL AND MISS KIM HYUN-HEE WERE ORGANIZED INTO A COVERT OPERATION TEAM DISGUIISING THEMSELVES AS FATHER AND DAUGHTER, AND UNDERWENT ESPIONAGE TRAINING FOR EXPLOSION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND TRAVELED OVERSEAS IN ORDER TO ADJUST THEMSELVES TO THE LIFE IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES FOR 3 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS FROM JULY 1984.

-- IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT KIM HYUN-HEE IS A DAUGHTER OF A NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMAT. HER FATHER, KIM WON-SOK, WAS CONFIRMED TO HAVE SERVED AS THIRD SECRETARY IN HAVANA, AND LATER IN MOSCOW. HE NOW IS BELIEVED TO BE IN ANGOLA, SERVING AS A FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVE AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION THERE.

-- WHEN MISS KIM HYUN-HEE WAS A FIRST GRADER AT A MIDDLE SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER 1972, SHE WAS SELECTED TO PRESENT A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS TO MR. CHANG KI-YOUNG, THE LATE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS VISITING PYONGYANG TO ATTEND THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SOUTH NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

-- AS THE KOREAN AIR FLIGHT 858 DISAPPEARED JUST AFTER THE COMMUNICATION WITH THE RANGOON GROUND CONTROL TOWER IN BURMA, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KOREAN AIR, AFTER ANALYZING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISAPPEARANCE, SUSPECTED THAT THE PLANE MUST HAVE BEEN EXPLODED IN THE AIR BY NORTH KOREAN TERRORIST ACT, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER, THE GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTED THE KOREAN EMBASSY AND BRANCH OFFICE OF THE KOREAN AIR IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO TRACE 15 FOREIGN PASSENGERS WHO HAD DISEMBARKED AT THE ABU-DHABI AIRPORT. AS A RESULT, HACHIYA SHINICHI AND HACHIYA MAYUMI TURNED OUT TO BE AS CHIEF SUSPECTS.

-- THE SUSPICIOUS POINTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- THEY WROTE ONLY THEIR GIVEN NAMES AS SHINICHI AND MAYUMI ON THE IMMIGRATION FORM WHILE ORDINARY JAPANESE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THEIR SURNAMES.

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- ~~THEY~~ TRAVELED FREQUENTLY SUCH AREAS AS VIENNA, BELGRADE WHICH ARE OFTEN USED BY NORTH KOREANS AS OVERSEAS OPERATION POSTS.

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- ALTHOUGH BAHRAIN, THE DESTINATION, CAN BE EASILY

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REACHED FROM BELGRADE VIA AMMAN, THEY TRAVELED BY KE 858, TAKING THE TROUBLE OF WAITING 3 TO 6 HOURS AT THE AIRPORTS AS TRANSIT-PASSENGERS.

- THEY HURRIEDLY CHECKED OUT OF THE HOTEL AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED TIME WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KE 858 BY A KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN MANAMA.

-- ACCORDINGLY, OUR EMBASSY IN BAHRAIN IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BAHRAIN TO CHECK WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE HOME GOVERNMENT ON THEIR IDENTITY AND PASSPORTS.

-- WHEN THEY WERE FOLLOWING DEPARTURE PROCEDURES AT THE AIRPORT, THEY WERE ESCORTED AND INTERROGATED BY THE BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES. AT THAT TIME, THEY ABRUPTLY TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY TAKING POISON.

-- BY THAT TIMES, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, CONVICTED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PLANE, DISPATCHED INVESTIGATORS TO BAHRAIN AND REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF THE SUSPECTS.

-- THE BAHRAINI AUTHORITIES ACCEDED TO OUR REQUEST FOR EXTRADITING THE SUSPECTS, KIM HYUN HEE, AND THE DEAD BODY OF KIM SUNG-IL TO KOREA, THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRY BY THIS TERRORIST ACT. THEREUPON A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION BEGAN.

-- IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ARRIVAL IN SEOUL ON DECEMBER 15, 1987:

- KIM HYUN HEE, THE SUSPECT, REFUSED TO TAKE FOOD OR SPEAK WHILE LYING IN BED FOR THE ILLNESS FROM TAKING POISON AND EXHAUSTION.
- AFTER ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SUSPECT FROM HARMING HERSELF, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE DAY AFTER THE ARRIVAL, SHE BEGAN TO MAKE BRIEF STATEMENTS EITHER IN CHINESE OR IN JAPANESE.
- ON 18 DECEMBER, THREE DAYS AFTER THE ARRIVAL, SHE DEMANDED A "HAMBURGER" IN CHINESE AFTER HAVING A BOWL OF PORRIDGE, AND THEN, BEGAN TO EAT RICE.
- EVEN AFTER SHE ALMOST CAME TO HER SENSES, SHE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE INTERROGATION UNDERTAKEN IN KOREAN FOR

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FIVE DAYS, AND BEHAVED LIKE A CHINESE BY INTRODUCING A CHINESE POEM TO THE INVESTIGATORS.

- SHE REPEATEDLY MADE FALSE STATEMENTS IN CHINESE AND IN JAPANESE, THUS COMPLICATING THE INVESTIGATION. SHE MADE SUCH FALSE STATEMENTS AS:

"I AM BAEK CHUI HYUE, BORNE IN AMUR PROVINCE IN CHINA, AND LIVED IN KWANCHOU."

"I BECAME AN ORPHAN AS MY MOTHER REMARRIED JUST AFTER MY BIRTH."

"I MOVED FROM KWANCHOU TO MACCAO ILLEGALLY IN JULY, 1987, AND MET HACHIYA SHINICHI WHEN WORKING AT A CASINO, AND WAS ADOPTED BY HIM. SINCE THEN, I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN JAPAN AS HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER."

"I HAVE ONCE BEEN IN PYONGYANG TO SEE MOTHER WHO WAS REMARRIED TO A KOREAN AND WAS WORKING IN A TEXTILE FACTORY."

- HOWEVER, WHEN SHE WAS UNDER INTERROGATION, IT BECAME KNOWN THAT SHE HAD A HABIT OF ARRANGING HER BEDCLOTHES IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY DO IN THE NORTH KOREAN TRAINING CAMP. IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE ADDRESS IN JAPAN WHICH SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE LIVED IN WAS FALSE, AND WAS ALSO FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS IGNORANT OF THE TRADITIONAL LIFE STYLES IN CHINA AND IN JAPAN, AND HER CHINESE ACCENT DIFFERED FROM THE DIALECT OF AMUR PROVINCE. FOR THESE REASONS, WE HAVE TRIED VARIOUS MEANS TO PROVE THAT HER STATEMENTS WERE FALSE.

- AS TIME WENT BY, SHE HAS BEGUN TO REALIZE THAT LIFE IN SOUTH KOREA THAT SHE WATCHED ON T.V. WAS DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT SHE HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO BELIEVE, AND THE SHE HAD BEEN USED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF TERRORISM BY NORTH KOREA.

- AT 17:00 HOURS ON DECEMBER 23, EIGHT DAYS AFTER HER

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ARRIVAL IN SEOUL, SHE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED UPON THE
BREAST OF A WOMAN INVESTIGATOR, SAYING "I AM SO SORRY"
IN KOREAN FOR THE FIRST TIME AND MURMURED WITH FULL OF
TEARS ON HER EYES. FROM THEN ON, SHE HAS BEGUN TO
CONFESS IN KOREAN THE DETAILS OF HER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

D. CONCLUSION

-- THE INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT THE NORTH KOREAN REGIME
HAS TRAINED THIS PAIR OF SPECIAL AGENTS FOR OVER SEVEN
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YEARS ON THIS SPECIAL MISSION AS PART OF THEIR ATTEMPT
TO SCUTTLE THE OLYMPICS.

- FULL COOPERATION WILL BE EXTENDED FOR SPECIAL ACCESS TO
THE SUSPECT IF REQUESTED BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.
THE FOREIGN PRESS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES, WILL BE PROVIDED WITH NECESSARY MATERIALS
FOR NEWS COVERAGE.
- WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENTS AND
AUTHORITIES OF THE BAHRAIN AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHICH
PROVIDED US WITH ALL THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION IN
THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION.
- IN OUR JOINT ENDEAVOUR TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM, I WOULD LIKE TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF YOUR
GOVERNMENTS IN CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA FOR THE ACT OF
TERRORISM WHICH IT HAS BEEN EMPLOYING AS AN INSTRUMENT
OF STATE POLICY FOR LONG. END TEXT.

4. MOSCOW AND BAGHDAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LILLEY##

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